

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

# INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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## 1. Origin and Development of the University for Pedagogy

- a. The University for Pedagogy (Paedagogische Hochschule) in Potsdam was formerly known as the University of Land Brandenburg (Brandenburgische Landeshochschule). Prof. Orechko (fnu), former director of educational affairs in the Soviet Military Administration (SMA), founded the University of Land Brandenburg in 1948 after the pattern of the Soviet-type "Land University". The University occupied the annexes of the New Palace (Neues Palais) in the servants' quarters and stables in Sanssouci Park. Later, the increasing number of students and the enlargement of the University made it necessary to acquire other buildings such as sections of the "Grangerie" for the Biological Institute, sections of the New Palace for the English Institute, and the "Roman Baths" for the Historical Institute.
- b. When the University of Land Brandenburg was founded, certain German elements voiced concern with regard to Humboldt University in Berlin. The valid argument, however, was that Land Brandenburg was without its own university since since the capital of Berlin had been severed from Land Brandenburg and Humboldt University could be reached from a western direction only with delay and difficulty or by going through the West Sector of Berlin. This argument eventually justified the foundation of the new university.
- c. In 1952, the official designation of the University was changed from University of Land Brandenburg to University for Pedagogy. The mission of the institution also changed. The University of Land Brandenburg had been vested with all the prerogatives of a university and not only trained teachers but also granted diplomas to physicists and chemists. The training of teachers became an exclusive mission after 1952. This change aroused protest among the students because the majority did not intend to enter the teaching profession. The protest had a limited success because students who had begun their studies under different conditions received permission to continue in pursuit of their chosen professions and were not forced into pedagogy.
- d. From 1952 to 1953, the University for Pedagogy consisted of two departments, the Department for Pedagogy for training of Mittelschule teachers in three

**CLASSIFICATION**

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years and the Department for General Science for training of Oberschule teachers in four study years<sup>1/</sup>. In the course of 1952, the smallest Institute, the ~~English~~ Institute, was discontinued. In 1953, another change occurred. The University for Pedagogy began to train only Oberschule teachers and was reorganized into the Department for Philosophy and History and the Department for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The compulsory third department, the Workers' and Farmers' Department, was added.

- e. The peculiar position of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam was a result of its two-fold subordination. As a training institution for Oberschule teachers, the University was administratively subordinate to the Ministry for People's Education, whereas, as a university, it was subordinate to the Ministry for University Affairs. This split responsibility was unfavorably reflected in the payment of salaries to the faculty, but it also gave the faculty leeway in the organization and planning of the curriculum.

## 2. Structure and Organization of the University for Pedagogy

### a. The following institutes were part of the University:

#### 1) Philosophic-Historical Department:

- a) Historical Institute (Historisches Institut)
- b) Slavic Institute (Institut fuer Slavistik)
- c) ~~Germanic~~ Institute (Institut fuer Germanistik)
- d) ~~English~~ Institute (Institut fuer Anglistik) - until 1952

#### 2) Natural Sciences and Mathematics Department

- a) Mathematics Institute (Mathematisches Institut)
- b) Physical Institute (Physikalisches Institut)
- c) Chemical Institute (Chemisches Institut)
- d) Biological Institute (Biologisches Institut)

### b. Students

- 1) A "free students' life", which is common in Western countries, was unknown at the University for Pedagogy and at other universities in the DDR. The choice of subject matter was not made by the students nor were the lectures attended voluntarily. All lectures were compulsory. Free German Youth (Freie Deutsche Jugend - FDJ) sub-section chiefs, appointed without pay, called the roll prior to every lecture and reported absentees to the FDJ secretary of the SED Party Group Headquarters. The names were also reported to the lecturer. Repeated absences from lectures could lead to dismissal from the University.
- 2) Students showed little enthusiasm and ambition. The teaching profession was unpopular because most of the students had been ordered to enter the teaching field. Teachers were generally underpaid and the choice of positions after graduation was not made by the teacher but by the Ministry for People's Education.
- 3) The fact that students were exposed to a continuous political influence and guidance, exerted through the FDJ and SED, provoked them to criticism and opposition of the faculty as well as of their fellow students. Compulsory membership in the German-Soviet friendship organization (Deutsch-Sowjetischen Freundschaft), assignment to SED-fighting groups (Kampfgruppen) and compulsory participation in active propaganda were not likely to increase the students' enthusiasm for their studies.

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- 4) The total number of students in 1951 was approximately 800 because enrollment was limited by the lack of lecture halls and laboratories. However, the number of students for the years 1952 and 1953 averaged approximately 2,000 per year. Forty percent of these were women. Approximately 65 percent of the students were enrolled in the Department for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1953, a plan was underway to drop the language department of the University and to create a language university in either Dresden or Leipzig. This plan was later discarded.
- 5) A severe housing shortage existed for students because they were not permitted to live in West Berlin and their accommodation in private quarters was not desirable. Several dormitory-type housing blocks were constructed from 1952 to 1954 but the housing problem had not been solved. In 1952, the Billeting and Supply Section of the Soviet Army (Kvartirno-Ekonomicheskaya Chast ~~KECH~~) was approached on the problem. As a result, the officers' hotel on Lennestrasse, in Potsdam, was occasionally made available by the Soviet Army for students.
- 6) The scholarship system at the University for Pedagogy followed that of the other universities in the DDR. Virtually all students were scholarship students. The scholarships were either compulsory scholarships or performance scholarships. The compulsory scholarships, which amounted to DME 120 to 180 per month, were staggered in accordance with the student's performance and were awarded only to students whose parents were peasants or workers. Performance scholarships, awarded in accordance with performance, were from DME 80 to 120 per month and required that the student finance at least part of his studies. The minimum award was granted to students who reached the average performance grade of 2.3. The grading scale ran from 1 to 5; 1 indicated a grade of "very good" and 5 was "unsatisfactory".

### 3. Curriculum, Post-Graduate Work, Degree

- a. The curriculum, as introduced in 1952, required four study years for all students. In accordance with the Soviet pattern, the study year consisted of ten months. The expression "semester" was forbidden. The study year began in September and continued until the beginning of July. Two-weeks vacation was granted, beginning 23 December. Examinations were held in June and July. The number of interim examinations was not allowed to exceed five during one study year. If a student failed in an examination he could study during the summer vacation and repeat the examination in September.
- b. After four years of study, students were required to pass the State examination which, measured by Western standards, was comparatively easy. Students received considerable assistance because every failure lowered the prestige of the University and the University for Pedagogy was in continuous performance competition with Humboldt University in Berlin.
- c. Students were required to study certain compulsory subjects in addition to their specialized subjects. Among these was the Russian language which became compulsory in all East German universities in 1952. Other compulsory studies at the University for Pedagogy were social sciences, including political materialism, during the first two years and political economy and pedagogy during the last two years.
- d. After passing the State examination, the graduate became an Oberschule teacher. Depending on his grades and the results of the State examination, and upon the suggestion of the faculty, a student could either volunteer for or be assigned to post-graduate work. Post-graduate work was referred to as Aspirantur. However, before becoming an Aspirantur, the selected

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student was encouraged to engage in teaching for two years after he had passed the State examination. The planned post-graduate work (planmaessige Aspirantur), with a monthly scholarship of DME 450, covered a period of three years. The doctor's degree was awarded after completion of the studies. No scholarship was granted for the free post-graduate work (freie Aspirantur). Students accepted for free post-graduate work were allowed to hold a government position while studying and no time limit existed for completing their studies. However, attempts were being made to abolish the free post-graduate work.

#### 4. Curriculum of the Slavic Institute

- a. No directives existed in the Slavic Institute to guide the type and subject of lectures or the extent of coverage of the subject-matter. The attempt made by the State Secretariat for University Affairs to influence the curriculum was discontinued as early as 1951 and the director and faculty of the Slavic Institute were given a free hand. The independence of the University for Pedagogy, and of the Slavic Institute in particular, was also reflected in the fact that no inspections or visits of Soviet officials, SSD or SED officials, or officials from the State Secretariat for University Affairs were ever observed. The Ministry for People's Education sent representatives prior to the State examination but only to plan the distribution and assignment of newly graduated teachers on the basis of their current performance grades and general evaluation.
- b. In addition to the compulsory subjects (para. 3.c.), the Slavic Institute held lectures on the following subjects:
  - 1) Russian literature
  - 2) Russian grammar
  - 3) History of the Russian language
  - 4) The present Russian language
  - 5) History of the Soviet Union
  - 6) Russian geography
- c. In Russian literature the authors of the Revolution and of the present time, including Gorki, were emphasized. The "people's authors" such as Gertsen and Nekrassov were studied in detail, whereas the classics and Dostoyevski were seldom mentioned.
- d. No grammars for the Russian language were available to students and all lectures on the Russian language were delivered in German until the fourth study year. In contrast, the lectures given in the English Institute were delivered in English. The faculty had been referred only to Soviet textbooks on grammar which had been written exclusively for Russians. The authors Shcherba, Vinogradov, and Matigala were especially indicated. The standards of proficiency in the Russian language, required to pass the State examination, were low. Only three of the 48 students admitted to the State examination in 1952 were considered proficient in spite of the fact that almost all of them passed the examination. According to pre-World-War-II standards, less than 50 percent would have been awarded the interpreter's diploma.

#### 5. Equipment and Budget

- a. A plentiful supply of modern technical equipment was available, especially to the laboratories of the Department for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The library was large and the collection of Soviet literature was complete. Histories on the Tsarist era and books by reactionary scientists who did not agree with Stalinism were almost entirely lacking. Soviet newspapers and periodicals, covering all fields, were received directly from the USSR.

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- b. The yearly budget was estimated to run into millions of DME. The student living quarters alone were constructed at a tremendous expense.

#### 6. Political Trends

- a. The highest political authority at the University for Pedagogy was the SED Party Group Headquarters, headed by a full-time Party secretary. A FDJ headquarters, also headed by a full-time secretary, was attached to the SED Party Group Headquarters. Students with a good political reputation were assigned as sub-group chiefs, without pay, to all Institutes of the University. Usually these students were also chiefs of the SED fighting groups. These fighting groups had been required, since 17 June 1953, to act as agitators, either in groups or as individuals, in housing units, industries, factories, and similar places.
- b. Party announcements occupied most of the space on the official bulletin board. The political certifications of the faculty as well as the names of reactionary students were posted there.
- c. Students operated as informants for the SED Party Group Headquarters in all Institutes. The majority of these informants were known and, in many cases, members of the faculty had been warned against them by other students. In spite of this wide-spread net of informants, relations between faculty and students were considered good. Good relations between members of the faculty resulted from the fact that the faculty was allowed to select new teachers for the staff as the University expanded. 25X1

#### 7. Key Personnel

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- a. Orechko, (fnu), Professor: Director of People's Education Affairs (Angelegenheiten fuer Volksbildung) of the SMA in Karlshorst. [REDACTED]

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- b. Bielfeld, Hans-Helm, Professor: Director of the Slavic Institute of Humboldt University in Berlin and former director of the Slavic Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. [REDACTED]

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- c. Schulze, (fnu), Professor: Director of the ~~English~~ Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam until 1952. [REDACTED]

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- d. ~~Ernst Hoffmann~~, Professor: Director of the Germanic Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. [REDACTED]

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- e. Lokys, (fnu), Dr.: Became director of the Slavic Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam in 1953. 25X1  
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- f. Mueller, Arno, Professor: Rector of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam and professor of social sciences. 25X1  
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- g. Hauser, (fnu), Professor: Dean of the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and director of the Mathematics Institute at the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1
- h. Mueller-Stoll, (fnu), Professor: Director of the Biological Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1
- i. Meier, (fnu), Professor: Dean of the Philosophic-Historical Department of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1
- j. Picht, (fnu), Professor: Director of the Physical Institute of the University of Pedagogy in Potsdam. UNCODED
- k. Schellenberger, (fnu), Professor: Director of Experimental Physics at the Physical Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1  
25X1
- l. Gehlen, (fnu), Professor: Director of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam.
- m. Ascher, (fnu), Mrs.: Russian-language teacher.
- n. Boeger, Alexander: Russian-language teacher.
- o. Henke, Egon: Russian-language teacher.
- p. May, (fnu), Miss: Russian-language teacher. 25X1
- q. Rinkewitz, Eduard: Russian-language teacher.

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- 1. Comment. The Mittelschule covers six years of study (students from 9 to 15 years of age). The Oberschule covers nine years of study (students from 9 to 18 years of age). 25X1  
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- b. The yearly budget was estimated to run into millions of DME. The student living quarters alone were constructed at a tremendous expense.

## 6. Political Trends

- a. The highest political authority at the University for Pedagogy was the SED Party Group Headquarters, headed by a full-time Party secretary. A FDJ headquarters, also headed by a full-time secretary, was attached to the SED Party Group Headquarters. Students with a good political reputation were assigned as sub-group chiefs, without pay, to all Institutes of the University. Usually these students were also chiefs of the SED fighting groups. These fighting groups had been required, since 17 June 1953, to act as agitators, either in groups or as individuals, in housing units, industries, factories, and similar places.
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## 7. Key Personnel

- a. Orzechko (fnu), Professor: Director of People's Education Affairs (Angelegenheiten fuer Volksbildung) of the SMA in Karlshorst.

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- b. Bielfeld Hans-Helm, Professor: Director of the Slavic Institute of Humboldt University in Berlin and former director of the Slavic Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam.

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- c. Schulze (fnu), Professor: Director of the English Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam until 1952.

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- d. Ernst Jodanowski, Professor: Director of the Germanic Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam.

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- e. Lokys (fnu), Dr.: Became director of the Slavic Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam in 1953. 25X1  
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- f. Mueller, Arno, Professor: Rector of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam and professor of social sciences. 25X1  
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- g. Hauger (fnu), Professor: Dean of the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and director of the Mathematics Institute at the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1
- h. Mueller-Stoll (fnu), Professor: Director of the Biological Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam.
- i. Meier (fnu), Professor: Dean of the Philosophic-Historical Department of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1  
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- j. Picht (fnu), Professor: Director of the Physical Institute of the University of Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1  
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- k. Schellenberger (fnu), Professor: Director of Experimental Physics at the Physical Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1  
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- l. Gehlen (fnu), Professor: Director of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Institute of the University for Pedagogy in Potsdam. 25X1  
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- m. Ascher (fnu), Mrs.: Russian-language teacher. 25X1  
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- n. Boeger, Alexander: Russian-language teacher. 25X1  
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- o. Henke, Egon: Russian-language teacher. 25X1  
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- p. May (fnu), Miss: Russian-language teacher. 25X1  
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- q. Rinkewitz, Eduard: Russian-language teacher. 25X1  
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1. Comment. The Mittelschule covers six years of study (students from 9 to 15 years of age). The Oberschule covers nine years of study (students from 9 to 18 years of age). 25X1

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